

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 DRC-01 EB-11 IO-14 EUR-25 EA-11

SIL-01 LAB-06 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SR-02 ORM-03 /202 W

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R 061100Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7994

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

USINT ALGIERS

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SOCI, SGEN, XA, SG, AG, PFOR

SUBJ FOURTH CONGRESS OF AFRICAN WOMEN

DEPT PASS OTHER POSTS AS APPROPRIATE

1. SUMMARY: FOURTH CONGRESS OF AFRICAN WOMEN HELD IN SENEGALESE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN DAKAR FROM JUL 27 TO 30. CONFERENCE FOR MOST PART CONFINED ITSELF TO SERVING AS SOUNDING BOARD FOR STANDARD AFRICAN VIEWS ON ANTI-COLONIALISM, ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT, AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACED BY LDC'S. END SUMMARY.

2. THIRTY COUNTRIES ATTENDED CONF. ALONG WITH SEVERAL DELS FROM AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS INCLUDING SWAPO, ANC AND FRELIMO. USSR, BULGARIA, PRG AND GRUNK SENT OBSERVERS WHO LOBBIED FOR RESOLUTIONS FAVORING GRUNK AND PRG WHICH APPEARED IN FINAL COMMUNIQUE.

3. PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS CITED AFRICAN HEROINES FROM ANTIQUITY TO CONTEMPORARY PERIOD. HE
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WAS FOLLOWED TO PODIUM BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY VICE

PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S MOVEMENT OF THE UPS, CAROLINE DIOP AND BY GUINEAN UN PERMREP JEANNE MARTINE CISSE. MME DIOP AND MME CISSE BOTH TOOK ANTICOLONIAL THEMES, MME CISSE, BEING THE MORE THOROUGH OF THE TWO DENOUNCING THE RACIST REGIMES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND CALLING FOR LIBERATION OF SUCH NON-SELF GOVERNING TERRITORIES AS COMORES AND "SO-CALLED FRENCH SOMALILAND". NOTWITHSTANDING HER IDENTIFICATION WITH REGIME OF SEKOU TOURE WITH WHICH PRESIDENT SENGHOR AT ODDS, MME CISSE'S REMARKS GREETED BY WARM OVATION AND SHE RECEIVED CONGRATULATIONS FROM PRESIDENT AFTER HER SPEECH.

4. OTHER CONF SPEECHES REPEATED POLITICAL THEMES AND ONLY TOUCHED IN PASSING ON ROLE OF WOMEN IN AFRICA. ALTHOUGH OCCASIONALLY CALLING FOR EQUAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN, SPEAKERS GAVE MAIN EMPHASIS TO ROLE OF WOMAN IN FAMILY, IN EDUCATION AND IN SOCIAL SERVICES.

5. CONFERENCE DIVIDED INTO THREE COMMITTEES--POLITICAL, SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL--FOR ITS WORK. ONLY WORK OF POLITICAL COMMITTEE RECEIVED ANY ATTENTION IN LOCAL PRESS. COMMITTEE SPENT FIRST OF TWO WORK DAYS DEBATING PROPOSAL, WHICH WAS ADOPTED, TO CHANGE NAME OF CONFERENCE TO PANAFRICAN WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION (PWO). SECOND DAY APPARENTLY DEVOTED TO DRAFTING ANTI-COLONIAL RESOLUTIONS. WHILE THANKING ARABS FOR AID FUNDS ALREADY SET UP, CONGRESS CALLED FOR MORE ARAB ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO AFRICA. ALSO DEMANDED RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS BE RECOGNIZED.

6. MME ETHIA BETTAHAR OF ALGERIA WAS ELECTED SECRETARY GENERAL OF ORGANIZATION. RESPONSIBILITIES THEN ASSIGNED TO DELS AS FOLLOWS: SENEGAL AND ALGERIA, FOREIGN RELATIONS; CONGO, ADMINISTRATION; LIBERIA, INFORMATION; MAURITANIA, EDUCATION; MADAGASCAR, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND JURIDICAL AFFAIRS; MALI, WITH AID OF SWAPO, FINANCES.

7. PRIME MINISTER DIOUF, WHO ALSO ATTENDED OPENING CEREMONIES, GAVE CLOSING SPEECH.
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8. COMMENT: AMERICAN WOMEN'S LIBERATION LEADERS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN AT HOME AT THIS CONFERENCE WHERE DELS APPEARED TO BE MORE CONCERNED WITH ENDORSING POLITICAL POSITIONS THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVTS THAN BRINGING ABOUT CHANGE IN STATUS OF AFRICAN WOMEN. REPORTEDLY ALGERIAN WILLINGNESS PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL FINANCING AS WELL AS HQS FOR PWO SECRETARIAT LED TO SELECTION OF

ALGERIAN AS PWO SECGEN.

AGGREY

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED OTHER POSTS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WOMEN, MEETINGS, MEETING PROCEEDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DAKAR04421
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740214-0334
From: DAKAR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740872/aaaacjjw.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Aug-2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <24 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOURTH CONGRESS OF AFRICAN WOMEN DEPT PASS OTHER POSTS AS APPROPRIATE
TAGS: SOCI, SGEM, PFOR, XA, SG, AG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005